

**ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES
SURVEY OF TWO PROPOSED PAVILION LOCATIONS
AT APACHE PARK IN SAN ANTONIO
BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

**Steven W. Ahr
Sherry N. DeFreece Emery**

**Prepared for
City of San Antonio, Texas**

**Prepared by
URS Corporation**

Texas Antiquity Permit No. 5188

May 2009

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE:

Archeological And Historic Resources Survey Of Two Proposed Pavilion Locations At
Apache Park In San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

TEXAS ANTIQUITY PERMIT NO.: 5188

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Intensive archeological survey and historic resources reconnaissance survey of two proposed
park pavilion locations in Apache Park, San Antonio.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:

Archeological Survey: Steven W. Ahr
Historical Survey: Sherry N. DeFreece Emery

DATES OF WORK:

Archeological Survey: April 13, 2009
Historical Survey: May 4, 2009

RECOMMENDATIONS:

No further archeological or historical investigations are recommended

ABSTRACT

URS Corporation conducted an archeological and historic resources survey for two alternative pavilion locations at the City of San Antonio-owned Apache Park in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. Archeological investigations were carried out on April 13, 2009 under Antiquities Permit No. 5188, with Steve Ahr serving as Principal Investigator. A few historic materials were found to be included in fill material that was presumably emplaced during park construction. Based on the excavation and inspection of two backhoe trenches, no potential was found to exist for intact cultural deposits. No further archeological investigations are recommended. URS historian Sherry N. DeFreece Emery conducted a historic resources reconnaissance survey on May 4, 2009. No historic-age resources were identified within or immediately adjacent to the project study area; Apache Park and the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the proposed project area are not of historic age. One historic-age resource, the San Antonio Produce Terminal Market, is outside of the project area of potential effects, and would not be affected by the proposed project.

Table of Contents

Part I: Archeological Resources Survey

INTRODUCTION.....	6
DEFINITION OF THE STUDY AREA	6
RESEARCH DESIGN	9
RESULTS.....	10
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS	15
REFERENCES.....	15

Part II: Historic Resources Reconnaissance Survey

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA.....	17
OBJECTIVES AND METHODS	17
HISTORIC BACKGROUND	19
RESULTS OF HISTORIC-AGE RESOURCES RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY.....	19
SUMMARY	19
REFERENCES.....	20

APPENDIX A: HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY EXHIBITS

Figures

Figure 1. Project area on USGS 7.5 minute San Antonio West topographic Quadrangle.....	7
Figure 2. Overview of Apache Park, facing east.	8
Figure 3. Site map of APE with backhoe trench locations.	10
Figure 4. Selected artifacts from fill deposit in APE.	11
Figure 5. Trench profiles recorded within APE.....	13
Figure 6. West wall profile of BHT 1 illustrating thick fill/debris in upper 90 cm.	14
Figure 7. East wall of BHT 2.....	14

Tables

Table 1. Historic materials identified in fill material.....	10
--	----

PART I

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES SURVEY

Principal Investigator: Steven W. Ahr

URS CORPORATION
9400 Amberglen Blvd.
Austin TX 78729

INTRODUCTION

URS Corporation performed an archeological survey for two proposed alternative pavilion locations improvements to the City of San Antonio (City)-owned Apache Park in Bexar County, Texas on April 13, 2009, under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 5188. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for archeological resources is considered to be the construction footprint for the two alternative pavilion locations. The estimated size of disturbance would be approximately 1000 to 2000 square feet (.022 to .045 acres). The anticipated vertical depth of disturbances within this footprint is anticipated to be at least 2 to 2.5 feet below surface.

Because the project is located on City-owned property, it falls under the jurisdiction of the Antiquities Code of Texas. The Code requires the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to review any action that has the potential to disturb prehistoric or historic sites within the public domain of the State of Texas. THC issues Antiquities Permits that stipulate conditions under which survey, discovery, excavation, demolition, restoration, or scientific investigations can occur. The City, as project sponsor, is fulfilling the regulatory requirements as outlined in the Antiquities Code of Texas. The investigations reported herein were conducted in accordance with the Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA) archeological survey standards for Texas, outlined in 13 TAC 26.5(35), 13 TAC 26.20(1, 2). The following report conforms to the CTA Guidelines for Cultural Resource Management Reports.

DEFINITION OF THE STUDY AREA

The project area is located in a residential neighborhood in central San Antonio in Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1). The city-owned park is between Apache Creek to the north, and South Laredo Street on the south. The park and surrounding area is characterized by well-maintained open grasses, with a few scattered oak trees. The built environment at the park consists of a parking area, with several cement slabs and picnic tables to the west of the parking area (Figure 2).

Climate and Hydrology

The modern climate of Bexar County is subtropical, with mild winters and hot summers. Average annual rainfall is 27.89 inches and average annual temperature is 79.2 degrees Fahrenheit. Elevation of the study area 640 feet above sea level. Apache Creek begins in northwest San Antonio and flows generally southeast where it enters the San Antonio River approximately 4.7 km from the project area. Review of areal photographs revealed that the majority of the urbanized portion of this stream has been heavily modified, and it is confined to an artificially improved channel alignment. Concrete walls are evident over most of the stream, including the segment near the project area.

Geology and Soils

Apache Park is located on a broad alluvial terrace on the south side of Apache creek. Terrace soils are mapped as Lewisville silty clay loam, 0-1% slopes (Taylor et al. 1991). Parent material for these soils is derived from Quaternary-age alluvium (Barnes 1974). Aerial photos indicate that the Apache Creek channel has been heavily modified in recent times, though impacts to the terrace surface containing the park appear to be minimal at near-surface.

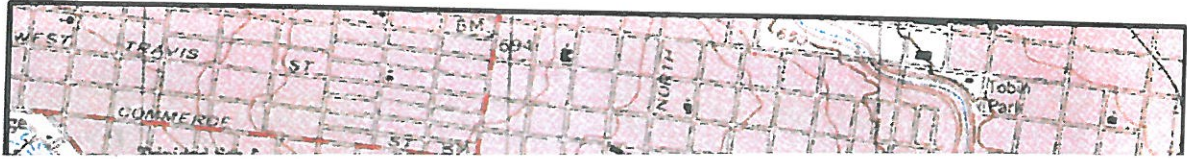


IMAGE REDACTED

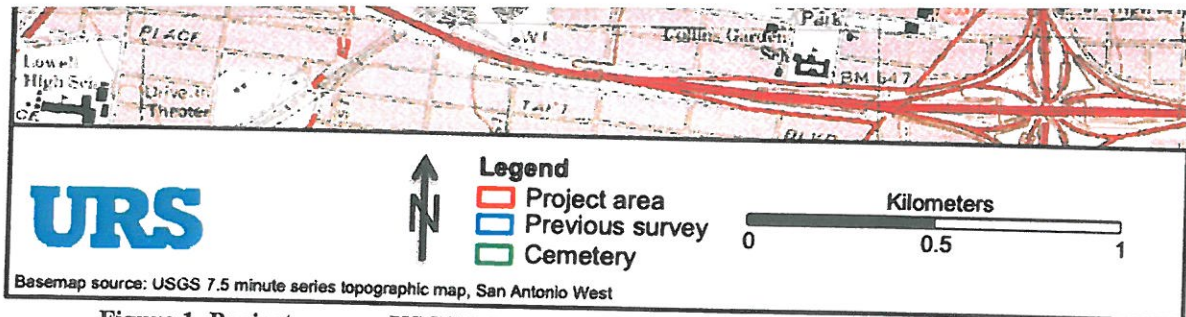


Figure 1. Project area on USGS 7.5 minute San Antonio East topographic Quadrangle.



Figure 2. Overview of Apache Park, facing east.

Previous Investigations

A review of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas revealed one previously recorded cultural resource site located approximately 800 meters to the northeast of the project area. Site 41BX511 was recorded in 1983 by Anne Fox and consists of a single frame structure and historic artifacts such as ceramics, nails, and glass. The site was revisited in 2000 during a TxDOT survey conducted under TAC Permit No. 2216. According to the site revisit form, this site has been destroyed and no further investigations were recommended.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The objective of the survey was to determine the presence of archeological sites in the APE, evaluate the potential for any such sites to contain intact deposits, and to determine if any located sites exhibit sufficient integrity to merit designation as a State Archeological Landmark. Field investigations were carried out under Antiquities Permit No. 5188 on April 13, 2009 and were conducted in accordance with CTA's archeological survey standards for Texas.

Background Research

Prior to fieldwork, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, the Geologic Atlas of Texas (San Antonio Sheet), and the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) soil survey for Bexar County were reviewed in order to assess the physical landscape setting and the geomorphic conditions that could affect the preservation of intact archeological deposits. The THC's Texas Archeological Sites Atlas was reviewed to identify known archeological sites and previous archeological investigations within a 1000-m radius of the APE. On-line historic maps available from the Texas State Library were reviewed for the presence of historic resources within and near the APE. Aerial photographs were reviewed to identify extant disturbances in the APE.

Archeological Survey

Archeological survey was conducted in accordance with CTA archeological survey standards and standards outlined in 13 TAC 26.5(35), 13 TAC 26.20(1), and 13 TAC 26.20(2). The survey included pedestrian survey, backhoe trenching, and artifact inventories.

- Pedestrian survey included inspection of exposed ground surfaces for evidence of prehistoric and/or historic archeological features.
- Shovel tests were attempted within the proposed pavilion footprints; however, the hardness of the clay and extensive gravel deposits precluded the effective excavation and screening of shovel tests. In lieu of shovel tests, backhoe trench walls were closely inspected for in situ cultural materials.
- One backhoe trench was excavated in each of the two proposed pavilion location. Each trench measured approximately 4 meters in length, 1 meter wide, and from 1.3 to 2.0 meters deep. One wall in each trench was selected for detailed soil descriptions following standard NRCS procedure (Soil Survey Division Staff, 1993). Trenches were photographed and then backfilled to the original topography.
- A scaled map was prepared for the APE, which was also documented with photographs.
- The survey employed a non-collection strategy. A representative sample of historic artifacts were photographed and described in the field.

RESULTS

The APE is situated on a level terrace above Apache Creek, at 640 feet above sea level, and exhibits level topography. Most of the area contains short, sparse grasses, with approximately 35% bare ground surfaces. Some leaf litter from oak trees is present. Two backhoe trenches were excavated within the APE, with one trench at each proposed pavilion location (Figure 3). Historic age artifacts were identified in each trench. Shovel tests were attempted at this site; however none could be effectively excavated due to the extremely compact nature of the clayey sediments.

The identified historic artifacts were found mixed with fill debris that appears to have been emplaced upon the original terrace surface, presumably during construction of the park. A summary of observed artifacts are listed in Table 1, and a representative sample is illustrated in Figure 4.

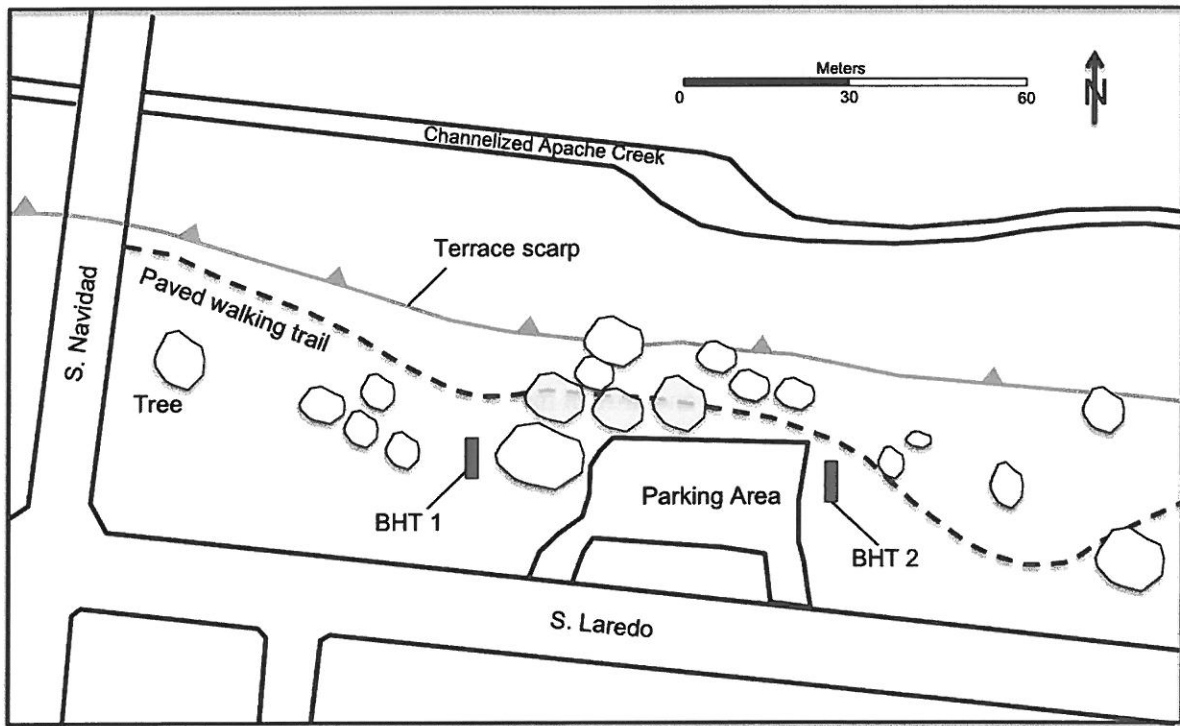


Figure 3. Site map of APE with backhoe trench locations.

Table 1. Historic materials identified in fill material.

Glass	Ceramics	Metal	Bone	Other
Clear Flat window	Blue glazed Porcelain Whiteware Yellow glazed rim Crockery fragment	Wire nails Rusted bottle caps	4 unidentified; one possibly cut	Tar roofing material and tiling



Figure 4. Selected artifacts from fill deposit in APE: a-b) blue-glazed ceramic sherd; c) yellow glazed rim fragment; d) crookery fragment; e) whiteware; f) porcelain; g) flat glass; h) clear glass; i) rusted wire nail; j-k) rusted bottle caps; l) flat bone; m) proximal end of medium mammal long bone; n) unidentified bone; o-p) ceramic roofing tile; q) fragment of tar shingle.

Backhoe trench profiles are provided in Figure 5. Backhoe trench (BHT) #1 was situated on the west side of the parking area and was excavated to 2.0 meters below surface. Detailed profile examination revealed a 90 cm-thick deposit of poorly sorted and coarse, gravelly, debris-filled material overlying an undisturbed clayey A-Bk1-Bk2 horizon sequence (90-200 cm), which was developed on the original Apache Creek terrace (Figure 6). Soil descriptions were consistent for those mapped for the Lewisville silty clay loam soil mapping unit. Evidence of roots and calcium carbonate nodules was found throughout the soil profile. A few water-rounded gravels were noted in the Bk2 horizon (180-200 cm), indicating that ancient (Pleistocene) channel gravels were probably not much deeper. No cultural materials were found within the native soil profile; all identified historic artifacts were contained within the disturbed fill material. Based on the profile assessment, it does not appear that

the original soil profile has been disturbed; rather, the fill was emplaced directly on the terrace surface.

BHT #2 was situated on the east side of the parking area and was excavated to 1.3 meters below surface (see Figure 5). Fill deposits at this location were 27 cm thick and overlie the same soil surface and horizon sequence as described for BHT 1 (Figure 7). Fewer historic artifacts were found in this trench, but were still confined to the fill deposits. No cultural materials were found within the native soil profile. Based on the profile assessment, it does not appear that the original soil profile has been disturbed; rather the fill, albeit shallower, was emplaced directly on the terrace surface.

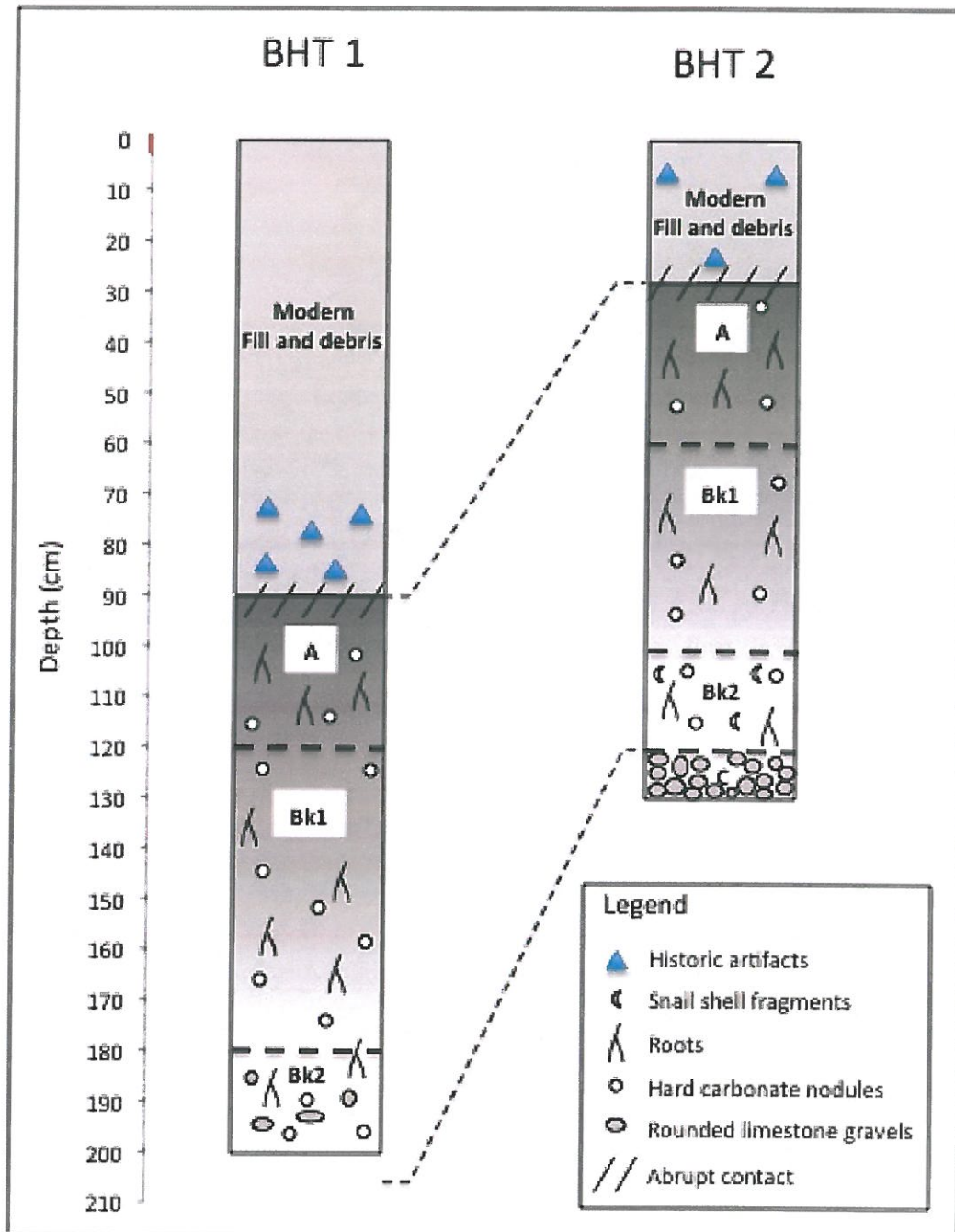


Figure 5. Trench profiles recorded within APE.

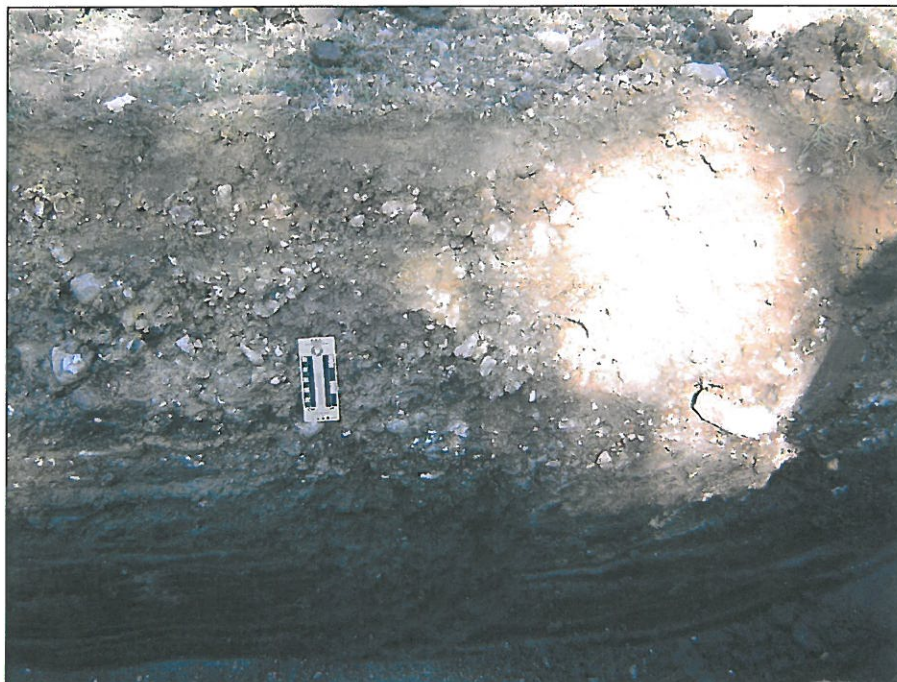


Figure 6. West wall profile of BHT 1 illustrating thick fill/debris in upper 90 cm.



Figure 7. East wall of BHT 2.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The excavation of two backhoe trenches at the proposed pavilion locations revealed historic-age artifacts contained within fill materials. The artifacts include common glass, ceramic, and metal items indicative of twentieth century households. Based on detailed trench profiles and local site topography, the fill material containing the artifacts appears to have been placed on the original terrace surface in recent times. No prehistoric materials were found, and no in situ artifacts were located within the native soil buried beneath the fill. Given the secondary context of the historic artifacts within fill material, the APE does not appear to exhibit research value. No further archeological investigations are recommended.

REFERENCES

Barnes, V.E.

- 1974 *Geologic Atlas of Texas: San Antonio Sheet*. Bureau of Economic Geology. University of Texas at Austin.

Reyna, S.

- 2004 Archeological Survey for the San Antonio Water System Water Recycling Program Interbranch Connection, Segments 2 and 3, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. Geo-Marine, Inc., Miscellaneous Report of Investigations No. 319.

Soil Survey Division Staff

- 1993 *Soil Survey Manual*. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook, vol. 18 U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington.

Taylor, F.B., R.B. Hailey, and D.L. Richmond

- 1991 *Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas*. United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

PART II

HISTORIC RESOURCE RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Principal Investigator: Sherry N. DeFreece Emery

URS CORPORATION
1950 North Stemmons Freeway, Suite 6000
Dallas, Texas 75207

INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT AREA

URS Corporation performed an historic resources reconnaissance survey for two proposed alternative pavilion locations improvements to the City of San Antonio (City)-owned Apache Park in Bexar County, Texas on 4 May 2009 in association with the archaeological survey performed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 5188. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for historic-age resources is considered to be 150 feet surrounding the construction footprint for the two alternative pavilion locations. While initial research performed during the coordination phase indicated that there was no potential for historic resources within the APE, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) History Programs division requested that a historian visit the proposed locations to field verify that no historic-age resources were present within the project area and to provide a general overview of the project area. The following information confirms that there are no historic-age resources within the project area, and provides photographic documentation of the park and surrounding area.

Apache Park extends along each side of Apache Creek, which begins at the Elmendorf Lake Dam on the north and extends generally southward until it empties into the San Antonio River. The creek is contained within a concrete channel. In the vicinity of the project area, the park is surrounded by residential neighborhoods on the north and south side of the creek. The residential neighborhoods to the north and south of the project area post-date the founding of the park, which is 1971 (SAPAR 2009a). Southwest of the project location is the San Antonio Produce Terminal Market, a wholesale produce market that dates to 1951 (Exhibit 1).

Apache Park consists entirely of relatively flat, grassy, open space and the park contains no structures. It does contain several features, including 17 picnic table units, 15 benches, 16 grills, 26 trash cans, one water fountain, and five bleachers. Several pedestrian bridges span Apache Creek within the park boundaries. Parking facilities containing 48 parking spaces are located within the park. The park also features one multi-purpose field, two basketball goals, a 3.38-mile-long paved hiking and bicycle trail along Apache Creek (SAPAR 2009a). None of the features or bridges within Apache Park is of historic age. Exhibits 2 through 14 show the park, its surroundings, and the immediate project area.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

Archival Research

Prior to fieldwork, a search for archival documentation on the project area was performed. Archival research was conducted to identify resources requiring initial or further investigation as well as to locate previously evaluated historic resources. Reports, records, maps and aerial photographs were examined. In addition to historic-age resources within the project APE, any development patterns indicating the locations of potentially historic districts within or abutting the project area were sought. A review of topographic and aerial maps indicated a low potential for unrecorded historic resources in the project area. Online research was conducted through various repositories including the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, which has published a series of histories on its historical parks, but does not discuss Apache Creek Park (SAPAR 2009b); the Bexar County Appraisal District ad valorem tax records for the park and nearby buildings; USGS quadrangle maps; and other historic sources. This included a search of the Texas Historic Sites Atlas (THSA). It should be noted that during the THSA search, the Atlas showed that the Caxias House was located at

102 Hidalgo Street. Upon further research and during the site visit, it was found that the THSA contained incorrect information, and the Caxias House is not near the project area; in fact the house is located in the La Villita District at 418 Villita, Building #400 (102 Hidalgo Way) and is used as the Casa Clasal/Copper Gallery. No other historic resources were identified by the THSA as being near Apache Park. Additional research was performed on site at the San Antonio Public Library. This library search included planning documents produced by the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, historic pamphlets on the subject of San Antonio Parks, and other relevant documents. These sources yielded no information about Apache Park.

Visiting the Resources

To verify the presence of any historic-age resources that may be affected by the proposed project, a reconnaissance survey was performed by an architectural historian meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for Architectural History. The reconnaissance survey was performed on 4 May 2009. For the purposes of the current study, an area of potential effect (APE) of 150 feet beyond each proposed pavilion location was investigated to determine if any unrecorded historic age resources could be affected by the proposed project. This APE was developed in coordination with the History Programs Division of the Texas Historical Commission (Appendix A; Rachel Leibowitz, personal communication with Sherry N. DeFreece Emery, 28 April 2009).¹

Evaluation of Significance and Integrity

Application of the Four NRHP Criteria of Significance

During historic resources surveys, all resources identified by the application of archival and field research are evaluated by applying the four NRHP criteria of eligibility. The four criteria are defined in the Secretary of the Interior guidelines published under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act. To be considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, a resource must meet at least one of the four criteria. The Secretary of the Interior guidelines state that,

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of your history; or
- (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in your past; or
- (c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history [36 CFR § 60.4].

Evaluation of the Seven Aspects of Integrity

In historic resources surveys, the seven aspects of integrity defined by the National Park Service for use in assessing National Register eligibility are applied to the evaluation of the integrity of historic-

¹ The coordination letter in Appendix A recommended that because there was low potential for historic resources within the project area, that no historic resources survey was necessary; however, the THC requested that a site visit be conducted to verify that no historic resources were present, as discussed in the introduction.

age resources. These seven aspects are integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The level of integrity required for NRHP eligibility is different for each of the four NRHP Criteria of Significance. If a resource is being assessed for significance because of its association with an event, then integrity of setting, feeling, and association are more important. If being assessed for significance as an example of design, then integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship are more important. These criteria have been discussed at length in previous documents. See *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (National Park Service 1997) for a full explanation of how the criteria are applied.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Apache Park consists of 80.8 developed acres along Apache Creek in west San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The park was donated to the city of San Antonio Park and Recreation Department in 1971 (SAPAR 2009a). While Apache Creek Park is officially located at 2901 El Paso Street, the site of proposed pavilion locations is northeast of the intersection of South Cibolo and South Laredo streets, south of Apache Creek. This location is directly south of Amistad Park at 1600 Tampico Street, which was also donated to the city in 1971 (SAPAR 2009a).

RESULTS OF HISTORIC-AGE RESOURCES RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

The reconnaissance survey of historic-age resources resulted in the identification of no historic-age resources. The residential neighborhoods to the north and south of the project area are contemporary to the date of the founding of the park (Exhibit 15). While there are ten single family residences within project APE or within 150 feet of the proposed pavilion locations, these houses date to the early to mid 1980s (BCAD 2009). The Produce Terminal Market to the southeast of the project area at 1500 South Zarzamora Street was built in 1951 and until the 1980s served as one of the major produce wholesale districts of Texas; the complex is one of many in the west side of San Antonio (BCAD 2009, San Antonio Express News 2007). The market is, however, located outside of the APE. It should be noted that due to its age, neither Apache Creek Park nor its features are historic-age resources.

SUMMARY

No historic-age resources are located within or immediately adjacent to the project study area, which for the purposes of this report included the proposed locations of pavilions in Apache Creek Park. Furthermore, Apache Creek Park and the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the proposed project area are not of historic age. One historic-age resource, the San Antonio Produce Terminal Market, is outside of the project APE, and will not be affected by the proposed project.

REFERENCES

Bexar County Appraisal District (BCAD)

- 2009 Ad Valorem Property Tax Records. Electronic document, available at <http://www.bcad.org/>. Accessed 6 May 2009.

City of San Antonio Park and Recreation Department (SAPAR)

- 2009a Park Inventory. Electronic document, available at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapar/parkininventoryApril2009.xls>. Accessed 6 May 2009.
- 2009b Parks & Recreation Department Parks Past: A Sampling of San Antonio Parks and Facilities Histories. Electronic document, available at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/sapar/histories.asp>. Accessed 6 May 2009.

National Park Service

- 1997 *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

San Antonio Express News

- 2007 The Produce Barons of San Antonio West Side. July 31. Electronic document, available at http://www.mysanantonio.com/business/MYSA071507_01R_ProduceTerminal_27517ad_html.html. Accessed 6 May 2009.

Texas Historic Sites Atlas (THSA)

- 2009 Caxias House. Electronic document, <http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us>, accessed 19 February 2009.

Texas State Historical Association (TSHA)

- 2009 San Antonio, Texas. In *The Handbook of Texas Online*. Electronic document, <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online>, accessed 19 February 2009.